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CONFIDENTI

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY

Germany/Russian Zone

DATE:

25X1A

SUBJECT

Activities of a Soviet Purchasing

INFO. DIST.

25 March 1947

Agency in Berlin

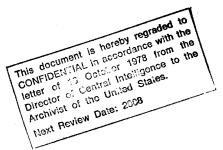
PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN 25X1X

- 1. A Soviet purchasing agency which buys gold, jewelry, china, paintings, and other valuables from German civilians at very high prices has its headquarters on Falkenbergerstrasse, Berlin-Weissensse. The head of the agency is a Russian jeweller who was once an apprentice at Cartier's in Paris and who calls himself Anatol. This agency, which operates by word of mouth, is now so active it has been described as a well organized dismantling action directed against German civilians.
- 2. Soviet and German purchasing agents and intermediaries, often operating under assumed French names, throughout the Berlin area buy these high quality items which are then stored, sometimes for long periods of time, in the undamaged buildings of the Askania Werke until they can be adquately wrapped and shipped to the U.S.S.R.
- 3. The special purchasing agent for paintings is a museum director from Leningrad. He is given large amounts every week by headquarters on Falkenbergerstrasse, with which he buys paintings exclusively.
- 4. A German named Graf, who lives in the American Zone on Firstrasse, Berlin-Zehlendorf, is the agency's most important German agent. Graf, who works undercover, always has large amounts of RM at his disposal, with which he makes small loans, then buys the pawns, or makes outright purchases which he turns over to the main office in Weissenses. Craf has made millions of RMs of personal profit from this activity.
- 5. All payments are made in RM and never in occupation farks. About six months ago the agency was paying 85,000 RM for a one carat diamond. It now pays 45,000 RM per carat.



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